Grounding of Airbus A-320

306. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Airbus A-320 of Indian Airlines which are still grounded; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Three Airbus A-320 aircraft are presently on ground for routine maintenance. Efforts are on for timely completion of the work as per the maintenance practices followed for such jobs.

Request made to foreign Governments for withdrawing adverse travel advisories

307. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to urge the Foreign Governments to withdraw adverse travel advisories issued to their citizens intending to visit India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has from time to time taken up this issue with the foreign governments concerned.

(b) The Government has tried to impress upon these foreign governments that in a large country like India eruption of localised disturbances from time to time cannot be ruled out. This, however, should not impede normal tourist traffic to the rest of the country which are generally peaceful, and travel advisories should reflect this position.

India's relations with South Africa

308. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any change in India's relation with the South African Government;

(b) whether the South African Government has shown any move to put an end to racial discrimination in South Africa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In conformity with the decision taken by the Commonwealth Summit at Harare on October 23, 1991, India is lifting 'people-to-people' sanctions. Sports boycott is also being lifted in regard to those sports organisations in South Africa in which there has been inter-racial integration. The Commonwealth Summit in Harare decided to maintain trade, economic and financial sanctions and arms embargo till further progress was made towards achieving a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The South African Government, has, besides unbanning anti-apartheid organisations and releasing prominent political prisoners, renealed apartheid legislation. However, further steps have to be taken in regard to the framing of a democratic constitution and the interim arrangements before it is actually adopted and becomes operative so that progress towards a non-racial and democratic South Africa could be treated as "irreversible".